

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 221714 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8589

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 7189

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR/ FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FARM POLICY

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE

-- SUMMARY-- - AGMINISTER CHIRAC SPENT MORE THAN THREE HOURS
EXPLAINING

HIS POLICY BEFORE FRENCH MILK PRODUCERS - " MODERNIZE AND GET BIGGER
WITH AID FROM GOF". END SUMMARY.

MINISTER CHIRAC, AGAINST ADVICE OF ADVISORS, APPEARED BEFORE THE
ANNUAL CONGRESS OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MILK PRODUCERS (N. F. P. L.)
TO EXPLAIN HIS POLICY FOR 1973.

BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL, IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THE N. F. P. L. WOULD SUPPORT
8.5 PERCENT MILK PRICE INCREASE APPROVED BY FRENCH FARMERS
ORGANIZATION (F. N. S. E. A.) AND EUROPEAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION (C. O. P.
A.)

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MINISTER SHOWED THAT THOSE FARMERS WHO WANTED
AN INCREASE OF 15 PERCENT (MAINLY PEOPLE FROM BRITTANY AND SOUTH
WEST AREA, CLOSE TO LEFTIST POLICY) HAD NOT LOST HOPE FOR SOMETHING
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BETTER. MINISTER CHIRAC ANNOUNCED THAT - THOUGH HE BELIEVED 15 PERCENT COULD HELP MANY SMALL PRODUCERS - HE WILL FIGHT (" DURING 3 NIGHTS IF NECESSARY") TO HAVE AN INCREASE IN MILK PRICES OF 8.5 PERCENT. BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT INCREASED PRICES ARE ONLY A PART OF HIS POLICY AND THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SMALL PRODUCERS' SITUATION IS THROUGH MODERNIZATION OF THEIR LIVESTOCK FACILITIES, IMPROVED BREEDING AND AN INCREASE IN HERD SIZE. HE PROMISED THAT THE LOW INTEREST LIVESTOCK LOANS - 700 MILLION FR. FR. - WILL BE FOR -- DAIRY-- ALSO.

HE ALSO REMARKED THAT A LARGE PRICE INCREASE WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL TO DUTCH AND ENGLISH PRODUCERS. EMPHASIZING THAT THE BRUSSELS NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE FORECAST FOR A LARGER SURPLUS OF BUTTER AND MILK POWDER, THE MINISTER ADDED THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES DO NOT WANT ANY INCREASE IN PRICES.

HE DECLARED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS READY TO ASK - AGAINST THE EC COMMISSION OPINION - THAT THE PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE TO MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE HE APPLIED TO DAIRY HERDS AND TO REVIVE THE FRENCH APPLICATION FOR AN E. C. TARIFF ON FATS AND OILS.

-- COMMENT-- - THE GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT MR. CHIRAC' S POSITION AT BRUSSELS NEGOTIATION WILL BE ISOLATED AND DIFFICULT. ALTHOUGH HE HAS PROMISED TO DO HIS BEST IT WAS REMARKED AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE WILL NOT OBTAIN MORE THAN 3 PERCENT FROM HIS COLLEAGUES. IRWIN

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